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Mercury Falls After Fresh Snowfall In Kashmir

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, while some parts in the plains were lashed by light rains on Friday, officials said.

Snowfall started in many areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir early in the morning, the officials said.

They said the fresh snowfall was witnessed in Machil and Tangdhar areas of Kupwara, Gurez in Bandipora district, the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla, Sonamarg in Ganderbal, and some other high altitude areas.

Due to the snowfall, the

Bandipora-Gurez Road has been closed temporarily for traffic, the officials said. Some areas in the plains of the valley received light rainfall.

The fresh snowfall in Gulmarg prompted police to issue and advisory for the tourists moving towards the famous ski resort.

"It is snowing at Gulmarg. All tourists and visitors are advised to plan their trips accordingly. Any problems are issues may be addressed to: +91 959 676 7768 PCR Bla , +91 959 676 7705 SDPO Tangmarg , +91 959 676 7713 SHO Tangmarg, +91 959 676 7714 SHO Gulmarg." Baramulla Police wrote on their official Twitter handle.

Pertinently, the MeT department had forecast light rains or snowfall at isolated to scattered places in the valley on Friday.

The weather is likely to stay mainly dry for a few days from Saturday.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature increased at most places in Kashmir Valley on Friday.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of 5.6 degree Celsius against 1.8 degree Celsius on the

previous night. Qazigund, recorded a minimum temperature of 3.2 degree Celsius against previous night's 0.6 degree Celsius, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a

low of 2.2 degree Celsius against minus 2.8 degree Celsius on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of 3.1 degree Celsius against 1.7 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 6.7 degree Celsius against 0.7 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 1.0 degree Celsius against minus 2.5 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Shootout Near SKIMS, Bemina

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: A teenager was injured on Friday during a shootout between militants and police near the SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) in Bemina area of the city outskirts.

19 year-old Masood Ahmad of Doda was injured after a bullet hit his right arm during a shootout between militants and government forces near the SKIMS medical college hospital in Bemina area here on Friday afternoon, reports said.

Medical Superintendent SKIMS, Bemina, Dr Shifa Deva told Kashmir Observer that an attendant suffered a minor injury in his arm during the shootout. "The injury is minor and the attendant is stable," she said.

According to the reports, the militants managed to flee from the spot after engaging the government forces in a brief encounter.

"There was a brief fire fight between terrorists and security forces at SKIMS Hospital, Bemina. Terrorists managed to escape taking advantage of civilian presence," Kashmir Police posted on its official Twitter handle.

Soon after the attack that took place along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway, additional reinforcements of army, police and CRPF reached the spot and launched a search operation, reports said.

The joint forces also frisked passerby and thoroughly checked the vehicles plying on the highway. However, no arrests were made when the last reports came in.

Meanwhile, a local news agency reported that the shootout took place when cops in a covert operation tried to kill a top militant commander, probably Mehraan, a resident of Srinagar at hospital when he fired back with a pistol and ran away.

Govt Takes U-Turn On 'Durbar Move'

Restores Accommodation For Its Employees At Jammu

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Four months after cancelling 149-year-old biannual tradition of shifting capitals between Srinagar and Jammu, the J&K government on Friday modified the General Administration Department (GAD) order and restored the accommodation for its employees at Jammu.

Pertinently, in June this year, the administration had cancelled residential accommodations of government officials as part of ending the age-old practice of 'durbar move'.

However, the government

THE ALLOTTEE(S) SHALL ALSO FURNISH AN UNDERTAKING before the Deputy Director Estates, Jammu to the effect that neither they nor their spouse/family member(s) occupied any government residential accommodation or their own house in Jammu city."

has issued a fresh order in which sanction has been accorded to partial modification of the order under number 113-Est of 2021 dated 29-06-2021 and restoration of government accommodation at Jammu.

"Consequent upon the order issued by the General Administration Department vide Government order No.

1133-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 25.10.2021, 1156 & 1157-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 28.10.2021, sanction is hereby accorded to the partial modification of Government Order No. 113-Est of 2021 dated 29.06.2021 and restoration of government accommodation at Jammu in favour of all these government employees which were earlier allotted to them by the Estates Department on temporary basis for a period of six months or till the services of the concerned employee is required by the department, whichever is earlier, on payment of rent/license fee as prescribed under rules," an order under number 51-Est of 2021, dated 03-11-2021 reads.

It added that the allottee(s) shall execute the necessary fresh license deed with the Deputy Director Estates, Jammu in this behalf and also complete all the formalities as required under rules.

"The allottee(s) shall also furnish an undertaking before the Deputy Director Estates, Jammu to the effect that neither they nor their spouse/family member(s) occupied any government residential accommodation or their own house in Jammu city," the order said.

"The Deputy Director Estates, Jammu shall hand over the possession of the restored accommodation only after verifying the genuineness/authenticity of the allottee(s) from the concerned DDO and furnish a report to the Director Estates within a week's time positively," it added.

Mughal Road Closed For Traffic

Mughal road, connecting Shopian and Poonch-Rajouri districts, was closed after fresh snowfall near Pir Ki Gali along the thoroughfare, officials said on Friday. DTI Mughal Road Qasam Choudhary said that traffic was halted on the road amid snowfall. He said that the road will be reopened once snow is cleared, according to news agency GNS. The historic road was

opened for all types of vehicular traffic on July 5 this year. Prior to it, the road was only allowed to be used for ferrying perishable items, mainly fruits. Meanwhile, Traffic movement in some far-flung areas of Kupwara including Keran, Karnah, Macchil, Jumagund, Budnambal and Kumkadi was either restricted or suspended in wake of the snowfall and inclement weather, the officials said.



A man warms his hands over a fire on a rainy day in Srinagar on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

PDD Gears Up To Meet Raising Power Demands

2 More Grid Stations To Augment Power Supply Capacity 320 Mws Of Electricity

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: In a move that could possibly improve the power scenario in the Valley, the Jammu Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (JKPTCL) has enhanced power supply capacity by an additional 320 megawatts of electricity to meet the rising demands with the commissioning of two more grid stations in

south Kashmir.

Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation, Hashmat Qazi told Kashmir Observer that they have commissioned 160 MVA Lassipora grid station on 26 October while the augmentation of Mir Bazar grid station will be done on 30 November.

"With the help of both the grids, we would be able to supply

an additional 320 MWA" Qazi said.

He further said, the distribution is not able to distribute 320 Mw's of power because of the constraints.

"They aren't able to take more power supply because of the less capacity of grid stations," Qazi added.

Sources from the department told Kashmir Observer that they have a capacity of over 1800 MW

against last year's 1500 MW but the demand is growing.

"We are hopeful that uninterrupted power supply will be provided once the two grid stations are commissioned," he told Kashmir Observer.

Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Aijaz Ahmad Dar told Kashmir Observer that they can provide the power supply for

round the clock if people use the electricity judiciously.

"Unfortunately, people use all electronic gadgets in winters as a result, the demand for power supply grows," he said.

The Power chief said that unless people won't cooperate with the department and use the electricity judiciously, the issue will never get resolved.

Dar also said ● **More On P06**

HOTSPOT SRINAGAR

8 More MCZs Declared, Lockdown In Some Areas In Offing



File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Taking note of sharp spike in daily coronavirus positive cases in this capital city, the district administration on Friday declared eight more areas here as micro

containment zones (MCZs) while warning of a lockdown in specific areas, if the positivity rate doesn't decline.

In view of rapid increase in Covid-19 positive case in Srinagar, the district administration declared ● **More On P06**

2 More Covid Deaths, 109 New Cases

Coronavirus claimed lives of two more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday while 109 fresh cases of virus were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, two more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu and Kashmir divisions on Friday, taking the fatality count to 4440—2177 in Jammu and 2263 in Kashmir. Of the new cases, officials said, 98 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining ● **More On P06**

J&K Likely To Roll Out Witness Protection Scheme

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir is likely to roll out a scheme for safeguarding vulnerable witnesses based on threat perception.

Sources said Friday that the government is likely to come up with a witness protection scheme to facilitate the protection of persons who are involved directly and indirectly in providing assistance to law enforcement agencies and overall administration of justice.

"The scheme has already been rolled out by different states. There have been discussions over it at different levels in UT. We are likely to notify it," a senior official said, adding that government will come up with a series of measures to be adopted to safeguard witnesses and their

family members from intimidation and threats against their lives, reputation and property.

He said the protection will be provided to witnesses on a case to case basis depending upon their vulnerability and threat perception. "The witness protection measures will be proportionate to the threat for a specific period," he said, adding that the measure will ensure improved convictions in criminal cases.

It is worthwhile to mention that in 2019 Jammu and Kashmir High Court framed a protocol for recording evidence of vulnerable witnesses.

It defines vulnerable witnesses as children below 18 years of age, victims of sexual violence, material witness in dangerous crimes and such other witness as may be deemed by trial court for reasons thereof to be record in writing.

IT Dept Raids Dry Fruits Traders In J&K, Punjab

Rs 200-Crore Black Income Detected, 14 Bank Lockers Put Under Restraint

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Department has detected unaccounted income of over Rs 200 crore after it recently raided people engaged in dry fruits trade located in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Friday.

The searches, it said in a statement, were carried out on October 28.

The group has been "inflating" purchases of dry fruits exorbitantly over the years.

"Seized evidence also

supports the fact that unaccounted cash has been received back by the directors of the group against payment made for such purchases.

"... one of the assesseees was maintaining a parallel set of books of accounts and there was a huge difference between the sales and purchases recorded in both the sets of books of accounts," the statement said.

One of the groups, the policy-making body for the tax department alleged in the statement, also indulged in unaccounted purchases and sales of dry fruits.

"Excess stock to the tune of Rs 40 crore has been found. The analysis of seized material and evidence collected reveals that one of the groups is also running a benami proprietary concern," it claimed. ● **More On P06**

Several illegal residential structures demolished in Khushaal Sar

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: As part of rejuvenation and restoration of historical Lake of Khushaal Sar, the District Administration Srinagar conducted a massive anti-encroachment drive in and along the banks of Historical Water Circuit of Khushaal Sar.

The anti-encroachment drive was launched on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad during which a special anti-encroachment team headed by Tehsildar Eidgah, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan demolished several residential structures in Khushaal Sar and retrieved more than 20 kanals of water body in the Lake from illegal occupants.

This was the third such anti encroachment demolition drive in the last 3 months conducted by the concerned team undertaken for restoration of the historical water body in Srinagar district.

Auqaf condemns disallowing of Friday prayers at Jama Masjid

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar has expressed strong resentment over the decision by authorities/police to once again disallow Friday prayers at Jammu and Kashmir's largest place of worship—the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar.

"Anjuman and the Muslims of Kashmir are unable to understand that on the one hand, all the places of worship, mosques, shrines, Imambargahs and Khanqahs in Jammu and Kashmir have been officially opened for Friday prayers, but only Jama Masjid Srinagar continues to be selectively banned and restricted from holding Friday prayers, which is extremely unfortunate and incomprehensible," The Auqaf said in a statement.

Govt Constitutes Enforcement Squads To Intensify Market Checking

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday chaired a meeting convened here to review the implementation and enforcement of rates of essential commodities, besides intensifying market checking in City markets.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to keep a "strict watch" on prices of essential commodities in the District and enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act to curb hoarding.

The DC asked the officers of FCS&CA to ensure that adequate stocks of all essential commodities are maintained and create a buffer to cushion the unusual price fluctuations and keep prices stable at all marketplaces. He also directed the officers to publish



rates of essential commodities in leading Newspapers on a regular basis, besides shopkeepers were asked to display rate lists of all essentials in the shops.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner constituted 17 Enforcement/Market checking squads at Tehsil level to

intensify the market checking and ensure all commodities are sold at already fixed prices besides ensure availability and quality of all essential supplies in the market to avoid hoardings and profiteering.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Additional Deputy Com-

missioner, Dr Syed Hanief Balkhi, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yassen Lone, SDM East Owais Mushtaq, Joint Controller Legal Metrology, Assistant Director FCS&CA, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, concerned Tehsildars and other concerned were present in the meeting.

Mashq-e-Paaeez: Ishq-e-Nabi'

Ten Day Workshop To Promote Art Begins at Mahatta's

KO NEWS DESK

Srinagar:- Edraak, a movement that aims at educational revival through arts and aesthetics in Kashmir kicked off its exhibition at Srinagar's Mahatta Gallery.

The event, "Mashq-e-Paaeez: Ishq-e-Nabi" is aimed at budding talent to encourage, platform and inspire them. The workshop cum exhibition will last till November 14.

On the inaugural day, Ilyas Rizvi, Founder EdRAAK, said that this event is actually based on the Milaad and autumn season. "As coincidentally this year's Milaad coincided with the autumn season, so we tried to blend the two separate events under one banner of Mashq-e-Paa'eez: Ishq-e-Nabi (SAW)." Ilyas Rizvi told



Kashmir Observer.

The event has been divided into four categories: Mashq (Calligraphy win-

dow), Aks(Visual Window), Dusst'(Fine art and painting window) and Harf (Prose and poetic window).

Notably, it's been more than a decade since EdRaak has tried to engage students in creative pursuits of arts and aesthetics in the valley through its workshops and exhibitions.

Through the EdRaak initiative many disadvantaged students of the valley have been learning contemporary arts, mystic arts, calligraphy, writing and several other creative things.

The Mashq-e-Paa'eez: Ishq-e-Nabi(SAW) event is the fourth season of exhibition and workshop that EdRAAK has conducted in recent years.

The event is completely a student-specific event and the participants of the event are mainly the students from the school of Fine Arts and a few high school students.

Allen Career Institute Nowgam Felicitates NEET Bankers

KO NEWS DESK

Srinagar- With an aim to bring remarkable changes to the career pursuits in the Kashmir region, Allen Career Institute, Nowgam, Srinagar felicitated the rankers of recently released NEET results during an impressive function at its Nowgam campus.

A felicitation ceremony of Allen's rankers was held at its Nowgam campus with the speakers and faculty highlighting the role of Allen Nowgam in reaching out to the students' community in Kashmir with evolved processes of career pursuits.

"Kashmir is known for its talent and intelligence.

All we have to do is make arrangements and platforms for the young kids who can avail of the facilities and compete in the national level exams. We have to channelize their energy," the Managing Director, Guardian Group of Hostels, an affiliate of Allen Career Institute, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, said.

'Kashmer' Holds Awareness Camp at Ishber



Syed Shahriyar

Srinagar: 'Kashmer' an NGO of Kashmiri origin health care professionals, held an awareness campaign at JCI, Nishat, Srinagar Friday afternoon.

The programme was well attended by leading Kashmiri health care professionals and NGOs.

Awareness was raised about Emergency Medical Response Ambulance Service (EMRS) with critical care facilities counselling and de-addiction services, Covid relief, vision screening, autism spectrum disorder. Tele consultations for autism and polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS),

dialyses services and dead body carrier services.

Free medications, free glasses for school children were also part of the workshop. The campaign was held to create awareness of the multiple health care services run by "Kashmer".

Speaking on the occasion one of the board members of "Kashmer" Dr Nahida said "Our colleagues and the health-care system here is doing amazing work despite challenges but the need is so immense that all players need to join hands to bring ease and lighten the burden on the health care system - bringing quality and equitable care for all, especially the needy in our beloved Kashmir."

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Conduct of second (physical) up-gradation / allotment round of counselling for admission to GNM courses-2021 of eligible candidates.

Reference: i. Notification No.052-BOPEE of 2021 dated 10-04-2021
ii. Notice No.045-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-05-2021
iii. Notice No.051-BOPEE of 2021 dated 28-05-2021.
iv. Notice No.053-BOPEE of 2021 dated 11-06-2021.
v. Notice No.055-BOPEE of 2021 dated 29-06-2021.
vi. Notification No.072-BOPEE of 2021 dated 24-07-2021
vii. Notification No.078-BOPEE of 2021 dated 20-08-2021
viii) Notification No.083-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-09-2021.
ix) Notification No.084-BOPEE of 2021 dated 07-09-2021.
x) Notification No.085-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-09-2021.

Notification No. 117 - BOPEE of 2021

Dated: 03.11.2021.

Consequent upon receipt of shortfall from various Colleges / Institutions, the Board has decided to conduct second round of physical up-gradation/ allotment counselling of eligible candidates for admission to GNM courses-2021. The interested candidates are advised to report at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu between 9.00 AM to 10.30 AM for Attendance/ Registration. The schedule of counselling shall be as under:-

(Counselling Schedule for candidates of GNM course only)

Date	From Rank	To Rank	Remarks
(Monday) 08-11-2021	02	800	All candidates
(Tuesday) 09-11-2021	803	1599	All candidates
(Wednesday) 10-11-2021	1605	2399	All candidates
(Thursday) 11-11-2021	2401	3100	All candidates
(Friday) 12-11-2021	3102	3700	All candidates
(Saturday) 13-11-2021	3701	4499	All candidates
(Monday) 15-11-2021	4501	5300	All candidates
(Tuesday) 16-11-2021	5305	6100	All candidates
(Wednesday) 17-11-2021	6101	7000	All candidates
(Thursday) 18-11-2021	7001	8194	All candidates

The candidates who have failed to join against the allotted seats during first round of counselling shall not be eligible to participate in this round of counselling.

The candidates who failed to attend the first round of counselling due to one or the other reason shall be eligible to participate in this round of counselling. The candidates in whose case choice was not available or seat was not available (CNA/SNA) during first round of counselling are also eligible to participate in this round of counselling.

Note:

i) All eligible candidates who are interested to participate in the counselling process scheduled to be held from 08.11.2021 to 18.11.2021 are advised to bring the receipt of admission fee deposited by them at the respective College/ Institution allotted to them by the Board during first round of physical counselling.

ii) The seat matrix shall be uploaded separately in due course of time

iii) The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in e-Information Brochure, Notifications and Notices issued by the Board from time to time in this regard.

E&OE

No: BOPEE/Exam-06/2021
dated 03-11-2021

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

DIPK-NB-4775/21

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- BIBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 29
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	4:57
Magrib	5:38
ISHA	6: 58

This Day In History

- 1918 - WWI: On the Western Front, Germany is now retreating as French and American troops cross the Meuse and move to take Sedan
- 1928 - Republican candidate Herbert Hoover is elected President of the United States, defeating Democrat candidate Al Smith
- 1940 - Franklin Roosevelt re-elected US President
- 1945 - The first landing of a jet on a carrier takes place on USS Wake Island when an FR-1 Fireball touches down
- 1949 - Greek civil war ends after 3 years with defeat of communist factions
- 1956 - Netherlands and Spain withdraw from Olympics in protest against Soviet actions in the Hungarian Revolution.
- 1967 - US launches Surveyor 6; makes soft landing on Moon Nov 9
- 1968 - Nixon elected 37th President of US, defeating Hubert Humphrey
- 1978 - Shah of Iran places Iran under military rule; General Gholan Reza Azhari forms government.
- 1979 - Ayatollah Khomeini takes over in Iran
- 1983 - Turkey Turgut Ozals Moederland party wins elections
- 1985 - 22nd Space Shuttle Mission (61A) -Challenger 9-lands at Edwards AFB
- 1985 - M-19 guerrillas occupy Palace of Justice Bogota Colombia
- 1985 - Space shuttle Challenger lands at Edwards Air Force Base, California
- 1990 - Iran's oil-producing region suffers a serious earthquake
- 1995 - Israel buries Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated by Jewish extremist Yigal Amir who opposed peace with Palestinians.
- 2001 - Crude oil for December delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) falls to a two-year low after OPEC members warn that a downward price spiral could occur if major non-OPEC oil exporters do not reduce oil production
- 2012 - Barack Obama is re-elected as US President, defeating Republican candidate Mitt Romney
- 2013 - 15 people are killed after a suicide bombing in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2016 - Indian government declares levels of air pollution in Delhi an emergency situation, closing schools and construction sites

From KO Archives

Taj Mahal Vanishes Under Magic Spell

Agencies

AGRA- The elegant 16th century embodiment of love, Taj Ma-hal, today had an altogether different date when noted magic wizard, P.C Sorcar junior, made it vanish.

Sorcar, master of the Indrajala magic snow, performed the feat at 1450 hours for over two minutes from a distance of about 400 metres behind Taj at a spot called Eachpura across the river Yamuna.

The mysterious entertainment, as Sorcar described it later, left hundreds of onlookers including policemen, administration officials and mediapersons absolutely stunned. The magic made the Mughal architectural marvel disappear in the thin air leaving a blank space at the site.

The magician was assisted by his daughter, Maneka, who made the historic monument reappear after two minutes. No it was not mass hypnotism, a jubilant Sorcar told PTI, adding on the contrary, it was a case of Application of 'Adrishya' (disappearance) Rasa' of the science of magic.

Just kept the Taj away from your eyes, it was a perfect illusion, the 53-year-old magician, whose late father had several incredible feats to his credit, said. This was the junior Sorcar's first major performance since 1992 when he had made a running train disappear at Khana junction near Bardhaman in West Bengal.

Sorcar is also credited with having made Kolkata's famous victoria memorial vanish in 1990 and an aircraft at Hamamata in Japan.

I don't possess any supernatural powers. I perform with the blessings of God and good wishes of the people, the magician, who had challenged a famous godman of the south in the eighties, said. A beaming Sorcar, who says magic was in his blood since eight generations, maintained that there was nothing supernatural in his feat.

This is all science, the science of controlling the mind and the will-power to create a psychic balance with the environment, he added.

(Kashmir Observer, November 06, 2000)

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OBSERVER

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Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Twitter Talks

“Power gow asi yoat, has begun”
@rj_vijdan

“Little girls are taught shame so quick and early in their lives. they haven't even fully understood their relationship with their bodies, but feel the shame and embarrassment so deep in their bones and for what?”
@toofanbadtameez (Ayesha Lari)

“Victim blaming on pretext of toxic nationalism is pure Evil”
@tamashabeen_

Islamophobia Is Not A “Phobia”, It’s A Way Of Governing

Islamophobia awareness month occurs every year. I didn't actually know that was a thing until last year, and then I forgot again, until this year. I suppose like all groups who face structural violence and hatred, Muslims have now been granted a month in which public bodies and liberals should affirm their sense that they care for marginalised people. I am certain that many confronted by “Islamophobia Awareness Month” feel sure they are aware of Islamophobia already though. Therefore it comes as a reminder to perhaps just vocalise (predominantly online) that one opposes Islamophobia because it is cruel, perpetuates stereotypes, and deserves denouncing anyway because it's that thing done by white working-classes and the Daily Mail (who we can all bond over denouncing !).

Whilst it is important to recognise the abusive Islamophobic rhetoric of the tabloid press and it is essential to pay more attention to verbal and physical harassment faced predominantly by Muslim women in public spaces; Islamophobia is so much more than such classist analyses allow for.

Whilst we do need to bring more attention to street harassment caused by Islamophobia – and I remain consistently antagonised by feminists who continue to be silent on the issue of gendered Islamophobic violence and assault – I believe we also need to understand such acts of violence as more than interpersonal prejudice. Reduction of Islamophobia to “phobia” and prejudice enables people to feel they have no connection to and are not invested in Islamophobia. It enables a false understanding of Islamophobia.

By calling Islamophobia structural what I mean is that it is a way of thinking and understanding that now formally informs the way public bodies, the mainstream media, and government act and treat Muslims. We have reached a stage where Muslims in total and Islam in itself are seen as threatening and potentially criminal in Britain. In academic terms this is called the “securitisation of Islam” – this refers to the way that countering terrorism has actually come to be about being suspicious of all Muslims due to understanding violence as something that any Muslim could potentially perpetrate. This is essential to understand.

The counter-terrorism strategy doesn't “counter” “terrorists”. That's not my opinion, the proof is unavoidable; you will have noticed that since the beginning of the War on Terror both abroad and “at home”, there has been no lack of violence. That's because counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation strategies do not actually deal with the cause of violence. The strategies assume that violence is, in the end, caused by the fact that someone is Muslim to start with.

Mental Health And Islam

In Weakness And In Strength



MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES DON'T MEAN A LACK OF FAITH. Faith is integral in sustaining and understanding for Muslims and Islam explicitly states that hardships are a part of a believer's life

Amir Suhail Wani

Mental health and psycho-social wellbeing are an indispensable and preliminary requirement for the overall wellness of an individual. So much is this dimension of health pivotal and precarious that even a minor mental health issue can leave an individual incapacitated and in a crippled state. But man is susceptible to a series of events and a host of phenomena which put her mental health in a state of compromise and casualty. Living in a world of throat-cutting competition and pressed upon by social, economic, existential and psychological challenges of all sorts and magnitudes, one is bound to encounter mental stress and related issues of one magnitude or the other sooner or later in life. At times, these experiences are too explosive in nature that they drive an individual into acts of self harm, drug addiction and even suicide. What are the possible remedies to this monster of mounting mental health problems, and what role, if any, can religion play to mitigate the issue.

The role of religion/spirituality in mitigating mental health issues and acting as a source of solutions to ailments of psychological order can be assessed from multiple frames of reference. Let's cursorily look at the issues which endanger man's mental health and see how religion resolves these issues and provides a framework, working within which, one can not only secure his mental health but improve his quality of overall life too. To begin with, life is not a cake walk, but a roller coaster of incessant challenges. These challenges assume various forms and contexts and keep revisiting us now and then. Isn't it mostly about these

challenges that one feels unnerved, helpless and pressed against the corner? But doesn't one remember how Allah, the creator of life with its miseries and comforts has described hu-

leave man in isolation, in a state of hopelessness, but assures man of ease and comfort accompanying every hardship and misery “So, surely with hardship comes ease” (Quran 94:5).

GOD, WHILE DESCRIBING HUMAN constitution and human condition explicitly states that “We have certainly created man into hardship” (Al Quran – 90:4). Look at the expression “certainly” as used in the verse to indicate the inevitability of hardships, tribulations and sufferings that one is bound to confront in one's life

man life and the circumstances that accompany it. God, while describing human constitution and human condition explicitly states that “We have certainly created man into hardship” (Al Quran – 90:4). Look at the expression “certainly” as used in the verse to indicate the inevitability of hardships, tribulations and sufferings that one is bound to confront in one's life.

The fact of the matter remains that man isn't able to see through this fact and doesn't prepare himself/herself mentally for the miseries that are potentially inherent to life. “Life is difficult” writes Dr Scott Peck, “This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult-once we truly understand and accept it-then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters”. This is the first master-key that can help each and everybody to unlock many of the doors to happiness and peace. Let it be reminded that the Quran, after describing life as full of tribulations and hardships, doesn't

The Quran leaves it to the discretion of its believers to seek help and comfort from God in whatever condition they are and this assurance has great therapeutic and corrective effect. The Quranic assurance is “and when (O Messenger) my servants ask about me, then surely I am near: I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he prays to me”.

Let's turn to the next major stressor in our lives and that is the issue of career, job security, sustainable livelihood and aggregate of all issues pertaining to our future. We are often, too much overburdened by our naive conjectures about the future that we miserably and pathetically end up messing up our present. In the quest of what we want, we undermine what we have and instead of benefiting and relishing from resources at our disposal, we spoil our life with untenable worries about the future. How does Islam help us neutralize this anxiety and what attitude does our religion command of in these cases. Quran categorically informs us of the fact that “Satan threatens you with poverty and orders you to commit evil, whereas Allah promises you

forgiveness from himself and bounty” (2:268). Satan, as man's eternal enemy he is, tries to wane us away from the mercy and bounties of Allah, by planting in our hearts the seeds of uncertainty, apprehension, fear of poverty and illness and thus makes us subordinate to his nefarious designs.

But God, our creator and sustainer, commands us of hope and thankfulness, optimism and joy. A Hadith-i-Qudsi informs us to keep our limbs in action and our hearts at peace when confronted with issues of livelihood and prosperity in worldly life. The exemplary life of Prophet Muhammad (saw) and his companions vividly demonstrates this facet of putting all hope in God and simultaneously harnessing material causes to their end. Theirs' was a life of unceasing thanksgiving and satisfaction, despite the availability of minimum worldly resources at their disposal and sometimes even absence of the means of livelihood. What conferred them with this satiety and composure in the face of fierce turbulence and what multiplies our anxieties and depression, despite the availability of resources at our disposal.

The difference lies in the fact that the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions knew that they are responsible and accountable only for their efforts and actions and handed over final results, success or failure, to God, the almighty. Whereas we, as people, think that we are both the agents of action and the result, despite knowing and observing more frequently that results, successes and failures are beyond our control. How can we be at peace with ourselves and with the world at large when we place on our shoulders the responsibility that doesn't legitimately belong to our domain, because we now know and then despite our best efforts, results will not always be in our favour, for they are beyond our jurisdiction? Please don't read these lines as something advocating inaction, pessimism and a scapegoat to justify our lazy and negative habits. The intent is just to orient the reader from his focus on results to his vigour and persistence of efforts. That is why we see the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions actively engaged with life and its affairs, sometimes trading, sometimes preaching, sometimes fighting and sometimes just seeking help from God.

Their belief in the fact that God is the harbinger of all results didn't dissuade them from action, but it certainly blessed them with peace and tranquillity, so necessary to accomplish any mission. If we can abide by their examples, we will surely conquer the obstacles of life, if on the other hand we abide by anxiety, misplaced worries and concern about affairs, beyond our ken, we are surely to bitterness in our life. True, all these conditions are, at times, inevitable, but positivity and hope in the face of these challenges is the only panacea one can afford.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is a writer and columnist

Facebook’s Metaverse Cannot Replace The Real World

Charles M. Blow

Just call me an old man, a troglodyte, a Luddite, whatever.

I have no interest in becoming part of a “metaverse.” That is the future Mark Zuckerberg’s troubled Facebook is aiming toward as it renames itself Meta. And what is this metaverse, you may ask? The New York Times explains:

“Mr. Zuckerberg painted a picture of the metaverse as a clean, well-lit virtual world, entered with virtual and augmented reality hardware at first and more advanced body sensors later on, in which people can play virtual games, attend virtual concerts, go shopping for virtual goods, collect virtual art, hang out with each others’ virtual avatars and attend virtual work meetings.”

That sounds absolutely ridiculous. And terrible. As with all new things, they appeal to some, maybe to millions, maybe even to most. But I have had to put my foot down, and I’ve actually been doing it a little at a time for a while now.

I keep telling myself that I must live in the here and now, that social media, in many ways, poisons our capacity to do that.

An embarrassment of riches

Don’t get me wrong, social media has many virtues, and I have not and will not turn away from it completely. After carefully curating the people, institutions and outlets that I follow, I now encounter more information than I could ever have imagined, more information than I can process. It is an em-

SOCIAL MEDIA HAS SO MUCH UGLINESS, SO MUCH envy and covetousness, so much misinformation and manipulation, that its prominence in my life, it became clear to me, held more problems than benefits

barrassment of riches, really.

Furthermore, social media is another publishing platform, and as a person who produces content that is published, social media was another outlet for me. I could publish mini-takes, things too short or insubstantial for a column or a segment of television.

I started my career in journalism as a designer. I still like design. But it's not a suitable topic for my column here or my television job. So I sometimes post on social media about it.

Keeping up with and connecting with friends and family has never been easier, although I must admit that the most valuable and meaningful social networks to me at the moment are simple text groups.

That said, social media has so much ugliness, so much envy and covetousness, so much misinformation and manipulation, that its prominence in my life, it became clear to me, held more problems than benefits.

I have attempted to reorient myself primarily to the real world (even that feels strange to write). To write more things that I don't immediately share. To write for the idea and not for viral impact – things that no one may “like” but that I still want to find a way to craft into their clearest form.

The urge to post

I want to share more pictures with the people I love and who love me – and not with the world, to get that world to react. The mere act of considering the response of strangers to personal posts of pictures is perverse. But it begs the question: If they are personal, why are you sharing them with strangers? So I have cut back on that. And I question my intentions more when I have the urge to post.

I even believe that social media was altering my sense of people: how they looked and lived and ate. Everyone was trying to one-up the next person. People too often looked perfect. They went on amazing vacations, lived in immaculate homes and ate exquisite dinners. Some of those photos may well reflect reality. But like most humans, we have our good days and our bad ones. Social media distorts that balance.

Even what is supposed to be positive can become oppressive and annoying, like the torrent of motivational memes and affirmations. Something about it rings hollow. Something about it presents as performative.

I have been pulling back from social media for a while now, using it mostly to advertise my column, TV segments and other ventures I'm involved in.

I must say that I feel like an addict finally getting clean.

Every moment for a voracious virtualness

I am surprised – and embarrassed that I am surprised – at how meaningful it is to me simply to be more present, to strike up conversations with strangers, not to feel that I need to document my every moment for a voracious virtualness, not to be so immersed in a screen that I miss the sunset.

I am more empathetic and diplomatic when I disagree with someone in person. Situations that I would have breezed by online, I linger on in person. The world is not perfect. It's not curated and filtered, and returning to the reality that that imperfection makes the world special has caused a shift in me.

I now regret, though I try not to, years of wasted time in virtual space, doing all the things people told me I should: worrying about engagement, timing posts for optimisation, reviewing analytics to figure out which things resonated and which didn't.

I was continuously carving and crafting an altered, more “likeable” image of myself, that in the end I deemed too controlled to be completely true.

So, as Facebook and others move toward the metaverse, I will choose to move toward a truer version of myself, one that lives more fully in the here and now.

Charles M. Blow is a columnist and the author of Fire Shut Up in My Bones

New York Times

Kashmir In Capital

A New Spark In The Shining Silk Legacy

Kashmir's Silk Odyssey Might Be Lost In The Downfall Of The Famed Factory, But Some Native Merchants Are Trying To Create Their Own Brand Value By Retaining The Global Interest In What Was Once The Vibrant Local Sector Of The Valley.

“EVERYONE PLAYS A SEPARATE ROLE,” he turns thoughtful. “My great grandfather did the earliest hard work. Then came my grandfather who did his bit and then my father. Similarly, I opened a separate entity, with the motive to carry forward the same legacy.”



ByRomaanArora

Inside his swanky South Delhi office, Tahir Mir, 37, demonstrates the quintessential Kashmiri hospitality with his warm demeanour. The suave self-starter is repetitively reaching out to his loyal suppliers over his cellphone. But despite his measured tone and tenor, he fails to crack the deal. Business in times of the pandemic-triggered market meltdown is still bad, he grumps at the deal he's trying to capture for a long time. But in the commotion of the capital, this Kashmir Arts professional has long learned the tricks of the trade—making him one of the go-to craft-dealers in Delhi. Tahir first arrived in the capital in 2001 as a fresh-faced student riding high on his immaculate academic record. Akin to a typical studious youngster, he was dreaming about his bright career prospects in Delhi. “Back home then,” Tahir speaks retrospectively, “the educational structure had fallen due to the scathing strife. As a consequence, I was compelled to leave home and come here to pursue my studies.” The young lad from Srinagar's Ram-bagh area soon secured admission in IIPM Delhi. During his campus stint, he got fascinated with the idea of self-started enterprise. After completing his education and securing a handsome job, Tahir decided to go against the favour and fortunes and went for a profession that now has earned him the title of Kashmir's diamond suit-seller. “I had a phone and a laptop back then,” he chronicles his nostalgic journey. “Those two gadgets were enough for me to start my business. I searched for potential buyers day and night and researched thoroughly before finally launching this ever-growing brand.” Even before starting his own venture, Tahir had inherited the legacy suit-selling business established by his great-

grandfather on the heels of the 1947 Partition. However, with a desire to do something different and not just getting his name featured with people doing nothing on their own, the young man founded his own firm by the same name. He instituted Diamond Silk the year he completed his campus degree. “Initially, I used to buy all the Kashmiri suits from my father,” he recalls. “I would then sell them in India as well as abroad. This continued for three years before I finally bought a personal workshop in Kashmir and hired my own craftsmen.” Those initial years were of great importance in Tahir's life—because, as per him, they gave him the experience and professionalism required to work in an economic powerhouse, like New Delhi. “I procured all the licenses required during these three years and built a massive market for my brand,” he says. “Therefore, during this period, buying quality goods effortlessly from my father was truly a blessing.” In what appears to be an easy step, acquiring licenses was the toughest time for Tahir. However, even after acquiring dozens of licenses, he was told that he still has to get a lot of papers approved to his brand's name for exporting the royal Kashmiri suits to the globe. This cost Tahir some of the finest deals of that time, something he still regrets. Nonetheless, the young man from the mountains didn't lose hope and over the struggling period of four years, added a distinction to his name. “Fortunately,” he says, “the hard work of those years paid massively and I won brands from Europe, America, and Russia.” Tahir witnessed a big boom within those initial years of starting his business and managed to buy a swanky showroom in the heart of South Delhi. But while his initial business journey was a bumpy ride, the fruitful years be-

gan only after he purchased the store along with a big warehouse. And since then, he never looked back. Though many Kashmiris settled in

“BACK HOME then,” Tahir speaks retrospectively, “the educational structure had fallen due to the scathing strife. As a consequence, I was compelled to leave home and come here to pursue my studies.”

Delhi miss a sense of home and belonging soon after arriving in the capital, this young man made a special bond with the new place in days after arriving there for the first time. “I still remember I came here by car with my friend and this place felt like home in blink of an eye,” he says visiting his old yet fresh memory-lane. Nonetheless, coming to Delhi wasn't a spontaneous decision as the young trader still remembers how campus and commerce used to shut in Kashmir for months. The capital shift was equally sped up by his personal experience. “I still remember my examination day in Jawahar Nagar Government School,” he recounts one of the unforgettable moments of his life. “The minute I entered the gate, I witnessed the campus commotion, which I had never experienced before.” Soon after, he remembers, a guard came and told him to run for his life as “cops have arrived to crack whip on some students”. To avoid such situation, he considered the campus shift, but years later, that run for his life is still making him feel uneasy.



His Delhi move, however, was shadowed by the typical Kashmiri security concerns outside the valley. But with the politically unstable homeland on one hand and a completely unfamiliar land on the other, Tahir's parents decided to go for the latter one. “It was a very hard decision for them,” he says. “They had to fight a searing emotional battle with it.” But today, his rise in the capital makes that decision worth all the pains. With his growing stature and success in life, Tahir makes a comparative case for himself. “It's a difference between digital and analogue,” he says while referring to the differences between his and his father's places of operation. “During my father's time, Kashmir was peaceful. Work used to be done in days but it was safe. Now, it isn't. However, Delhi is just opposite. Here, if you can't keep the track of time, you can't survive.” For Tahir, throwing good products in the market along with delivering the finest after-sale services is the reason behind his brand getting traction across all spectrums. “I've a very loyal customer base, including the customers of my father. They are with me for ages.” Also, he continues, the family has unique quality running down the generations. The brand Diamond Silk, as it stands today, has a history of its own. According to Tahir, the brand was first registered by Tahir's grandfather when he used to work in a silk factory in Kashmir. The old man, with all his savings, used to buy silk from the same factory where he worked and established a niche for him in the handicraft history of Kashmir. It eventually became such a big brand, that people from outside used to visit Kashmir, just to frequent the Diamond Silk. Years later, Tahir says, the reason for starting his own branch was the motivation to do his bit for the legacy of his great grandfather. “Everyone plays a separate role,” he turns thoughtful. “My great grandfather did the earliest hard work. Then came my grandfather who did his bit and then my father. Similarly, I opened a separate entity, with the motive to carry forward the

same legacy.” This sense of inheritance makes him a natural trader and gives him an edge over his competitors in the craft market. “It may be easy to see a businessman in stress due to low sale,” Tahir says, “but it was the other way around for me.” He still remembers the time when his sale boosted to an extent that his father had to make an emergency landing in Delhi just to become his support. Tahir remembers an interesting, better, and yet exhausting time. Tahir eventually became an “export king” with over 80 percent of his buyers from outside India. Among his domestic customers is an old clientele base cultivated by his forefathers. “This bonding is so strong that I just can't resist their small demands as it's about that age-old trust on the brand,” Tahir says. To safeguard this trust, Tahir lately attended one of his family's old clientele—a couple who came to buy a shawl from him for the wedding of their daughter. The order came at an eleventh-hour, “but I made it sure to deliver it on time and keep their trust intact on my legacy,” he says. “That is how my forefathers did it.” In the legacy business, he continues, certain ethics and beliefs are the key elements. Based on those elements, Tahir has a word of advice for the struggling youth of Kashmir: “Whenever someone gives you a task or job to complete in 30 days, you should get it done by the 25th day itself. Because 31st is never an option for professionals. So, meet the deadline as fast you can.” Despite this determined mindset, many say, one tends to grow weary in the din of Delhi. But the young craft-dealer from Kashmir is not only enjoying his capital stay, but also looking forward to many moments and milestones. As someone who means business, Tahir terms his two-decade-old Delhi journey a defining phase of his life. “Since the day I came here, I have only prospered and moved ahead,” he says. “This place has given me so much that it has become my second home now. I have learned all the crucial aspects of life here only. My brand has its base here, and now it's kind of flows in my vein.”



“I PROCURED ALL THE LICENSES required during these three years and built a massive market for my brand,” he says. “Therefore, during this period, buying quality goods effortlessly from my father was truly a blessing.”



Sameer Wankhede To No Longer Probe Cruise Drugs Case; NCB Transfers 6 Cases To SIT

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officer Sameer Wankhede has been taken off the controversial cruise drugs case in which Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was arrested, with the agency transferring the investigation in the matter and five other cases from the Mumbai unit headed by him to an SIT.

Wankhede, who is facing several personal and service-related allegations, will continue to be the Mumbai zone director of the agency.

Officials cited "administrative grounds" for the decision to transfer the six cases, which also include the one involving the son-in-law of Maharashtra cabinet minister Nawab Malik who had launched a tirade against Wankhede and levelled several allegations against him.

The NCB issued a statement on Friday to say that the six cases are being "taken over" by the special investigation team (SIT)



of officers from the Delhi operations unit as they have "national and international ramifications and in order to conduct a deeper investigation to find out forward and backward linkages."

It said, "No officer or officers have been removed from their present roles and they will

continue to assist the operations branch investigation as required until any specific orders are issued to the contrary."

The NCB reiterated that it functions across India as a single integrated agency.

The NCB operations unit has a pan-India jurisdiction and it is

currently headed by DDG Sanjay Kumar Singh. He is an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 1996 batch Odisha cadre.

As these cases have "wider and inter-state ramifications", they have been transferred to the operations unit in Delhi, NCB Deputy Director General (north-west region) Mutha Ashok Jain told PTI on Friday.

Jain said the order for the transfer of cases has been issued by NCB Director General (DG) S N Pradhan.

It was not clear if the 2020 drugs case of actor Rhea Chakraborty was also transferred to the operations unit from Mumbai.

Sources said the agency has found "certain issues" in the probe in these six cases and hence they are being taken away from the Mumbai unit.

The NCB had arrested Aryan Khan and at least 19 others in the drugs on cruise case on the intervening night of October 2-3 and Wankhede is facing a departmental vigilance probe

after an independent witness in this case alleged an extortion bid by those involved in the investigation.

Wankhede had denied any wrongdoing.

Aryan Khan was released on bail on October 30.

A team from the Delhi NCB operations is expected to reach Mumbai on Saturday and camp in there to take the probe in these cases forward, the officials said.

Wankhede refuted that he has been "removed" from the investigation in the Aryan Khan case and said the agency's move is about coordination between NCB teams of Mumbai and Delhi.

However, Maharashtra Minister Malik said the NCB officer's removal from the case "is just the beginning".

"Sameer Wankhede removed from 5 cases including the Aryan Khan case. There are 26 cases in all that need to be probed. This is just the beginning... a lot more has to be done to clean this system and we will do it," the NCP leader said.

TN Police File 2,000 Cases For Violating SC Directive On Firecrackers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai: About 2,000 cases have been registered by police across Tamil Nadu against those who violated the Supreme Court directives in respect of firecrackers, police sources said here on Friday.

The total number of cases registered across the state is approximately 2,000 and it includes violations in respect of the two-hour time slab fixed by the apex court to burst firecrackers on Deepavali.

The cases also include those against firecracker shops or units that sold or stored products by breaching 'specific court directives' and also for violation of other norms, police sources here told PTI.

On aspects like the law invoked against shops and other violators, they declined to elaborate, saying cases have been filed under appropriate provisions of law.

Deepavali was celebrated on November 4 this year and the



Supreme Court had allowed bursting of firecrackers for two hours, from 6 AM to 7 AM and from 7 PM to 8 PM.

On October 29, the Supreme Court had said that celebration cannot be at the cost of others' health and clarified that while there is no total ban on use of firecrackers, those fireworks which contain Barium salts are prohibited.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna said that no authority can be permitted to violate the directions issued by it and allow banned firecrackers in the guise of celebration.

Bharat Biotech's US partner Ocugen files EUA request with FDA for paediatric use of Covaxin



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HYDERABAD: Ocugen Inc., Bharat Biotech's partner for USA and Canada for COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin on Friday said it has submitted a request to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the jab for paediatric use.

The submission is based on results of a Phase 2/3 paediatric clinical trial conducted by Bharat Biotech in India with 526 children 2-18 years of age, which bridged immunogenicity data to a large, Phase 3 safety and efficacy clinical trial in nearly 25,800 adults in India, Ocugen said in a regulatory filing.

"Filing for Emergency Use Authorization in the U.S. for paediatric use is a significant step toward our hope to make our vaccine candidate available here and help combat the COVID-19 pandemic," Shankar Musunuri, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Ocugen said.

Some research suggests that people are seeking more

choices when selecting a vaccine, especially for their children. Having a new type of vaccine available will enable people to discuss with their child's physician the best approach for them to lower their child's risk of contracting COVID-19, he further said.

"The inactivated virus platform has been used for decades in vaccines for the paediatric population and, if authorized, we hope to offer another vaccine option to protect children as young as two years," he added.

A Phase 2/3, open-label, multi-center study was conducted in India from May 2021 to July 2021 to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity and immunogenicity of the whole-virion inactivated vaccine in healthy volunteers in the 2-18 age group.

Covaxin was evaluated in three age groups: 2-6 years, 6-12 years and 12-18 years. All participants received two doses of the vaccine 28 days apart, it said.

Covaxin was recently awarded Emergency Use Listing by the World Health Organization.

Russia's Virus Wave Strong; Some Regions Plan To Resume Work

Agenceceis

MOSCOW: Russia on Friday reported nearly 1,200 deaths from COVID-19 over the past day, just short of its record in a persistent wave of coronavirus infections that closed most businesses in the country this week.

The national coronavirus task force said 1,192 people died in the past 24 hours and 40,735 new infection cases were tallied. The daily records of 1,195 deaths and 40,993 infections came earlier in the week.

Officials blame the low vaccination rate as a major factor in the sharp rise in cases that began in mid-September.

The task force on Friday reported about 57 million full-course vaccinations less than 40% of the country's 146 million people.

Russia is six days into a nationwide nonworking period that the government introduced to curb the spread of the virus. Last month, President Vladimir Putin ordered many Russians to stay off work between Oct. 30 and Nov. 7.

He authorised regional governments to extend the number of non-working days, if necessary.

Several regions including Novgorod in the northwest, Tomsk in Siberia, the Chelyabinsk region in the Ural Mountains and Kursk and Bryansk regions southwest of Moscow have extended the non-working period through the end of next week.

Moscow's mayor said the situation in the capital had stabilised sufficiently to return to work on Monday.

The Russia-annexed Crimea region also will resume working next week.

Certain restrictions will remain in place in the Russian capital, such as a stay-at-home order for older adults and a mandate for businesses to have



THE NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE said 1,192 people died in the past 24 hours and 40,735 new infection cases were tallied. The daily records of 1,195 deaths and 40,993 infections came earlier in the week.

30% of their staff work from home.

Access to theatres and museums is limited to those who either have been fully vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 within the last six months or can present a negative coronavirus test.

For the course of the pandemic the coronavirus task force has recorded more than 8.7 million infections and 244,447 deaths.

However, the task force counts only deaths directly attributed to the virus.

Figures from the state statistical service, which also counts deaths in which the virus was a contributing factor or was suspected but not confirmed, indicate the virus' impact is significantly more severe; its most recent report tallied about 462,000 virus-connected deaths through the end of September. (AP)

281 People Arrested In Delhi For Violating Firecracker Ban Between September 29 And Diwali

Agenceceis

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police arrested 281 people -- 138 for selling and supplying firecrackers and 143 for bursting them -- between September 29 and Diwali on Thursday, according to data provided by the force on Friday.

Firecrackers weighing a total of 19,702.489 kg were seized during the period.

Ahead of the festive season, the Delhi government had announced a complete ban on firecrackers till January 1, 2022.

The Delhi Police has registered 125 cases for selling and supplying of firecrackers and arrested 138 people from September 29 till Thursday, it said. It registered 210 cases for bursting of firecrackers and arrested 143 people.

The Delhi Police last year had released data of PCR calls received and firecrackers recovered on Diwali night, but no such data was given this year.

The Delhi Police contacted 699 schools in the national capital to spread awareness about the ban on firecrackers among children, it said, adding that the maximum of 125 schools were contacted in Shahdara district, followed by 95 in north and 83 in outer north district.

A total of 706 teams were constituted to enforce the directives. The maximum number of 152 teams constituted in east district, followed by 95 in northwest district. The police had said that even though most of the manufacturing and storage units were shut in the national capital, people engaged in the business managed to procure firecrackers at lower prices from neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in huge quantities.

Firecrackers were burst at several areas in the national capital on Diwali.

Residents of Lajpat Nagar in South Delhi, Burari in North Delhi, Paschim Vihar in West Delhi and Shahdara in East Delhi reported incidents of firecracker bursting as early as 7 pm on Diwali despite the ban.

Last year on Diwali, the Delhi Police received over 2,000 PCR calls from people complaining about the bursting of firecrackers. Over 1,300 kg of crackers were seized.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PDD Gears Up To

that over 30 percent of Kashmir has been covered under metered areas while 70 percent are non-metered.

"People from non-metered areas are consuming the electricity without any check," Dar said, when asked what is stopping them to do so he said "people aren't allowing us to install the meters, even our staff was beaten many a places"

However, the repeated assurances from the department have failed to convince the consumers who complain of erratic power supply during the winters.

The department has failed to finalize the curtailment schedule for the winter period with officials saying that the plan will be out "soon".

The consumers of both metered and non-metered areas have complained about frequent power outages, accusing the PDD, which is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity in the Valley, of failing to provide adequate power.

Here in Srinagar, the complaints of unscheduled power cuts were received from various Downtown areas including Bagh-Ali-Mardan, Alamgari Bazar and Hawal, Bemina, Habba Kadal, Hazratbal and its adjacent areas.

"The winter arrives in every part of the world. Electronic gadgets are being used everywhere according to needs. I wonder why the power cuts are only in Kashmir," said Mohammad Ramzan, a resident of Batamalo.

Ramzan, 60, alleges that he is witnessing the unscheduled power cuts since the last 50 years of his life.

"They never updated the power infrastructure. Their tall claims fall flat as the winter arrives," Ramzan said.

Even if the department claims that the more power demand is being fulfilled with the help of commissioning the power grids, people claim that the unscheduled power cuts have become synonymous with winter. With the onset of winter, the demand

for power supply grows as most households use heat blowers, power blankets, heaters, geysers, and other warming devices that run on electricity.

8 More MCZs

8 more areas as micro containment zones under Medical zones of Batamalo, Zadibal, S.R Gunj and Khanyar to prevent spread of infection in the district, an official spokesperson said Friday.

Giving more details, he said, the areas include Milat Abad, Peerbagh, near Islamic Public School and Noorani Colony Peerbagh in Medical Zone Batamalo, Upper Soura, near Petrol Pump, Bilal Colony Soura, near Bilal Masjid and Bota Kadal, near Darul ul Uloom Bilaliya in Medical Zone Zadibal, Zaina Kadal near Gagar Masjid in Medical Zone S R Gunj and Buchwara and Batwara areas in Khanyar Medical Zone in the district.

Quoting Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the official spokesperson said that the recent spike in Covid-19 positive cases has prompted the administration to take the step for protection of precious lives.

He said that Asad, who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), has said the administration is mulling for localised lock-down in some specific areas of city, if the number of positive cases do not decrease.

"He further said that Srinagar has witnessed a spike in Covid cases in the past one week, prompting the administration to declare some areas in the city as containment zones," the official spokesperson said.

Asad, he said, gave the details and stated that out of total active Covid-19 positive cases in J&K, about half of them come from Srinagar district only. While other than Srinagar District, cases reported from 19 other districts are either in single digit or no case at all.

"There are 476 active Covid-19 positive cases in only Srinagar district out of total 981 cases in

J&K", Asad said, adding that currently, there are 82 containment zones in Srinagar, 8 of which were added today.

According to the official spokesperson, the DC further said if people don't follow safety protocols, then Srinagar could be the reason behind the start of the third wave in J&K.

"He appealed to the people to follow Covid SOPs in letter and spirit and avoid large gatherings," he added.

2 More Covid

11 from Jammu division.

Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported highest 64 cases, Baramulla 12, Budgam 8, Kupwara 7, Ganderbal 3, Kulgam and Bandipora two each cases of coronavirus. No cases were reported from Shopian, Anantnag and Pulwama districts in south Kashmir.

In the winter capital, the officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of nine cases and one each in Udhampur and Rajouri. Doda, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi registered no new cases of Covid-19.

"Moreover, 79 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, eight from Jammu Division and 71 from Kashmir," they said.

IT Dept Raids

In both the groups, the claim of deduction under section 80IB (deduction in respect of profits and gains from certain industrial undertakings) of the Income Tax Act has been found to be "not genuine" and is estimated to be around Rs 30 crore, it claimed.

"The search action has resulted in the seizure of unaccounted cash of Rs 63 lakh and jewellery of Rs 2 crore and detection of unaccounted income exceeding Rs 200 crore," it said.

Fourteen bank lockers were put "under restraint", it added.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)
Herna Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/
Zum Zum Complex Rambagh Srinagar.
(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Answer Key Notice

Subject:- Answer Key & seeking of representations (if any) to the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) Examination for various posts held w.e.f 27th of October 2021 to 02nd of November 2021, and submission of representations-regarding.

The J&K Services Selection Board conducted Computer Based Written Test examinations for various posts w.e.f 27th of October 2021 to 02nd of November 2021.

The Answer Key(s)/Question Paper(s) shall be available through the online link available on the website of the Board i.e www.jkssb.nic.in, from today i.e (03-11-2021) for four days Till 07th of November 2021, only. The candidates can submit their objections/representations in respect of any question/answer (if any) and upload the same, along-with documentary evidence/ reference. However, Objections /representations through any other means shall not be entertained.

Important Instructions:

- Candidates are requested to login with their Roll No., Date Of Birth, Select Date Of Examination and Batch Timing shown in their Admit Card to view their Response sheet, Question and Answer Key.
- In Question Paper view, correct alternative is highlighted in green.
- Enter question number against which objection to be raised in the "Question No." field.
- Enter objection against a question in the "Objection" field.
- Click on Add button to submit representation for more than one Question.
- Objections must be entered only in English.
- Objections can be raised only against questions and their alternatives.
- Objections once submitted cannot be edited later.
- Once submitted, new objections cannot be added later.

DIPK-NB-4776/21

No.SSB/COE/CBT/2021/ 7494-7501

Dated:- 03-11-2021

(Ashok Kumar)JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board
Jammu

IMPHS Hablishi Celebrates Annual Day



SRINAGAR: Islamia Model Public High School (IMPHS) Hablishi Devsar Thursday celebrated its annual day.

"Annual Day forms an integral part of our school activities. It is an occasion of celebration, felicitation, feast and festivity when students present not only their wonderful performances but also receive honours for their curricular and co-curricular achievements," said a statement from the school.

The Annual Day 2021 was woven around the theme "Performance" and the prize distribution was entitled by "Achievement".

"The functions were presided over by Chairman IMPHS Hablishi Mohammad Yousuf Parray. The other dignitaries present were Ali Mohammad, Secretary (IMPHS Hablishi), Sajad Ahmad Parray (Academic Advisor IMPHS), Shabir Ahmad (Financial Advisor IMPHS) and various members of the Managing Committee," the statement added.

Principal Mir Abid Hussain extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries present. Talking of the theme "Performance", he expressed that the trend of education is changing and the need of the hour is to train the students for future life. He articulated that each member of the society has to take a strong decision in order to change the mindset of the people towards education when it was imparted according to old dogmatic traditions and to modernise the whole system of the education. The long Cultural Show held the audience in awe and left them enlightened as the show culminated. He further

stressed upon equal education and assures the students and society to make IMPHS an educational hub.

Moreover stress was laid upon nurturing our cultures, values and ethics in order to nourish the "rich culture of our mother land and the school. Stressing upon Islamic Education" the Principal said that the school has taken tremendous steps to impart Islamic Education alongside the prescribed curriculum.

The Chief Guest Mohammad Yousuf Parray was all praise for the show. He congratulated the school for taking such an edifying topic which requires a quick moral action on everybody's part.

Sajad Ahmad, Academic Advisor also spoke to the event and stressed upon imparting value and moral education among the young learners. He further said that the school has achieved many milestones and has produced many professionals and the school has to touch the skies.

The Annual Prize Distribution function was a moment of pride and honour for all the winners and achievers of the school. The students were awarded prizes in the Academic as well as Co-Curricular areas. The function included a cultural programme in order to show cause their talent to their love towards their culture.

Principal, Mir Abid Hussain extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and presented the Annual Report. He read out the achievements of the school – both Academic and Co-curricular and wished success to the students who could not make up for the prizes.

2020 saw 287 suicide cases in J&K: NCRB Data

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, at least 287 suicide cases were reported from the region in 2020. The figures regarding the accidental deaths and suicides across India in 2020 were revealed by the National Crime Records Bureau for Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that was released earlier in last week of October.

As per the data, Jammu and Kashmir reported 287 suicide cases, including 157 males and 130 females, with a projected mid-year population of 133.4 Lakh. NCRB data revealed that, in J&K, 29 suicide cases of marriage related issues were reported and 14 suicide cases of non-settlement of marriage issue and one suicide case of bankruptcy or indebtedness was reported.

"In J&K, seven suicide cases of dowry-related issues and eight suicide cases of extramarital af-

fairs were also reported in the year 2020 and 15 suicide cases of failure in examination," reveals the data.

In the Srinagar district, 200 percent increase in the number of suicide cases, with 6 cases reported in 2020 against the 2 cases in 2019.

As per the data, over 20 suicide cases of family problems, five suicide cases due to illness, and as many cases of insanity or mental illness were reported in J&K in 2020. Further, 25 suicides of love affairs, one each suicide case of fall in social reputation, drug abuse and alcoholic addiction were reported in J&K.

The data further reveals that in the same year 13 suicide cases due to poverty, 46 suicide cases due to unemployment and one suicide case due to poverty were reported. The report also states that 101 suicide cases, of which the reason is unknown and 23 suicide cases with other reasons were reported in J&K.

IND vs PAK AFTERMATH

Family Of Terminated Govt Employee Seeks Forgiveness

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The family of the Kashmiri health worker who was dismissed from services over alleged online posts cheering the victory of Pakistan over India in the T20 World Cup has sought forgiveness from the authorities.

The health worker – identified as operation theatre technician Safiya Majeed – was engaged on academic arrangement basis under SRO-24 and was dismissed from the Government Medical College in Rajouri.

Abdul Majeed, Safiya's father, pleaded ignorance of the content of the message that his daughter had allegedly posted online. "I have no information on what she had posted but if she has erred, she should be forgiven and given a chance to correct herself," he told a local news agency.

The dismissed health worker, Abdul Majeed said, was the only source of income for

Her family. "She is the only source of income for her family and sole hope to turn around

our fate," he said. "If my daughter has done anything wrong, please forgive her. We are very poor. We can't do anything except apologise."

Safiya had been employed in GMC Rajouri for less than a year and was terminated for "activity which seems to be disloyalty towards nation" and her alleged failure to report back to duty after the expiry of her leave.

The order, issued by GMC Rajouri principal Dr Brij Mohan, also stated that "no employee of the institution will be allowed to be disloyal to the nation". The health worker is alleged to have uploaded the messages as her Whatsapp status on the night of October 24, close to midnight when the Pakistan cricket team won a major victory – a first in international cricket – over India.

The health worker is among many Kashmiris persecuted for cheering Pakistan's victory in the October match against India. Three students in Uttar Pradesh's Agra were dismissed from their colleges and booked by the local police for sedition.

The J&K Students Association, an organisation of student leaders who aide Kashmiri students in distress outside the Valley, said that it had hired the services of noted lawyer Madhavan Dutt –also the counsel for journalist Siddique Kappan, in jail facing sedition and terror charges by the UP government – to fight their case.

Nasir Kheuhami, a student leader with the organisation, also wrote to the UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath to revoke the FIR against the three students as supporting any team was their "right."

"But if they wrote any provocative thing on social media which hurt the sentiments of people, that is wrong and unjustified. They should have enjoyed the match with the true spirit of a sportsman," Khuehami added.

In Kashmir, the police had registered two cases under anti-terrorism law against Kashmiri medical students for celebrating India's defeat. The move was widely condemned by political parties.

'Highest Ever' Scholarship Outlay Of 30 Crore For Tribal Students

Post-Matric/Graduate Scholarship Deadline Extended Upto 20 Nov

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Tribal Affairs Department has extended the deadline for submission of applications on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for tribal students under Post-Matric / Graduate scholarship which also covers professional colleges.

The last date earlier fixed as 30 October 2021 has been extended now upto 20th November 2021 particularly in view of biannual migration of tribal communities. Students have been advised to fill up online form along with supporting documents and ensure updation of Aadhar information.

Tribal Affairs Department has fixed an ever highest schol-

arship outlay of Rs 30.00 Cr this year which covers both post-matric and Pre-matric scholarship. Department released an amount of Rs 8.00 Cr yesterday in favour of Directorate of Tribal Affairs for disbursement under DBT Mode. More than 6000 students from professional colleges are targeted to be benefited under the Post-Matric/ Graduate Scholarship for which a specific outlay of Rs 12.00 Cr has been earmarked.

The last date for institution verification for the Post-Matric / Graduate Scholarship has been fixed as 25 November 2021 and defect improvement deadline has been fixed as 30 November 2021. Verification at district / department level will be con-

ducted thereafter and scholarship to all eligible students will be credited before end of financial year through DBT in favour of eligible applicants.

Further, Chief Education Officers have been asked to open separate account for Pre-matric scholarship which is the major component under the scheme given the large number of students.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said that department is encouraging maximum number of students to apply under all the schemes and impressed upon the college students to apply under the National Overseas Scholarship for tribal students under which several courses of advanced learning are being sponsored.

'Accidental Fire' Kills Policeman

JAMMU: A policeman was killed on Friday after his service rifle went off accidentally in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Constable Ajeet Singh of R S Pura, Jammu suffered grievous wounds after his –self-loading rifle (SLR) rifle went off accidentally at a checkpoint in Malipeth, area of Kishtwar on Friday morning, officials said. The injured cop was rushed to district hospital Kishtwar where he succumbed to the wounds, they said.

SSP Kishtwar, Shaqat Hussein Bhat confirmed the death of the policeman and said that a case has been registered and further investigation taken up.

BSF Constable Found Dead

JAMMU: A Border Security Force (BSF) constable died under mysterious circumstances in its Paloura-based headquarters here, police said.

39-year-old constable, Pawan Chouhan, who hails from Indore in Madhya Pradesh, was brought dead to the Government Medical College and Hospital from the BSF Headquarter during the intervening night of November 4-5, police said. "Cause of death is not yet known," the police said.

A BSF official said Chouhan complained of breathlessness and uneasiness last night when he came to the BSF hospital, from where he was shifted to the GMC Jammu.

JAMMU ASSERTION

Empower Jammu To Strengthen Nation: Devendra Rana

JAMMU: Former legislator and a prominent face of the National Conference in the region, Devender Singh Rana on Friday called for the "empowerment of Jammu province as a mission" to strengthen the country.

Rana, who is now in the Bharatiya Janata Party, called for "collective efforts" towards this mission that he said "will eventually lead to the empowerment of Jammu and Kashmir and thereby a strong nation."

"Let's work with sincerity of purpose and single-mindedly in achieving this objective", Rana said while interacting with devotees after the Goverdhan Puja at the historic Ram Mandir at Purani Mandi in Jammu.

Rana said that Jammu has to grow as an "equal player" with the "feeling of fair play ending the era of despondency, deprivation and dejection among the people."

He also exhorted the public to be hospitable towards pilgrims arrive in Jammu, particularly towards the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Shri Amarnath shrines. Senior BJP functionaries were also present during the puja ceremony at the temple.

The former legislator was among the most prominent faces of the NC in the region. He is also the brother of senior BJP leader and a junior minister in the central government, Jitendra Singh Rana.



J&K to have BJP CM: Ravinder Raina

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: BJP state president Ravinder Raina on Friday said that the party would not only be part of a future government in Jammu and Kashmir but also take the position of chief minister as the people of the region had "accepted" them.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of Bhaviya Pooja at the historic Shankaracharya temple in Srinagar, Raina said: "Let me tell you, the way people of J&K are accept-

ing BJP, there will be BJP chief minister and BJP government."

Further, hitting out at Pakistan, Raina said that the country's denial of airspace to the much hyped Srinagar-Sharjah direct flight reflected its "ill mindset".

"Flights will still go from Srinagar to Sharjah and the only difference will be that there will be a longer route. Now flights will first take off from Srinagar and then fly from Delhi to Mumbai and then to Sharjah," he said.



Karan Singh Wants New Jammu Airport Terminal Named After Hari Singh

'Jammu Airport First Constructed By My Father For His Private Plane'

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Senior Congress leader Karan Singh on Friday wrote to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to name the new terminal building of the Jammu Airport after his father Hari Singh, the last king of the autocratic Dogra dynasty.

"As you know the Jammu airport was first constructed by my father Maharaja Hari Singh for his private plane and was used for several years," Singh stated in his letter. "Now that the airport has been greatly extended and the new Terminal building is coming up, I feel it would be appropriate if the new building is called the Maharaja Hari Singh Terminal."

He added: "I wrote to the Min-

ister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia who said that the request can be considered on the recommendation of the State Government, duly supported by a Resolution passed in the State Legislative Assembly. As we do

not have a Assembly at present, perhaps you may like to make a recommendation to the Ministry. I am sure this will be greatly appreciated by the people of Jammu."

Meanwhile, on October 8, the Administrative Council (AC) gave the nod to the transfer of state land measuring 974 Kanal 2 Marla at Rakh Raipur village in Jammu in favour of Airport Authority of India (AAI), free of cost, for the establishment of new terminal at Jammu Airport, an official spokesman said.



Modi Govt Promoting Agricultural Start-ups For Youth: Jitendra Singh

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday accused previous state governments of discouraging agricultural Start-Ups to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment, rendering the youth perpetually dependent on government jobs.

The Minister accused regional political parties of doing so to keep the youth bound to the "political masters of the day". As a result, the region's immense potential for entrepreneurship and self-livelihood remained unexplored, he said.

The minister made these remarks while addressing an interactive meet of Agricultural Start-Ups and farmers, organised jointly by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST).

Singh said that no gov-

ernment in any country can ensure 100 percent salaried government jobs to youth, but a responsible government plans to promote means of livelihood and this is precisely what the Modi government is trying to seek.

The minister said, in the past, the farmers and the agriculturists would largely depend upon the mood of climate and vagaries of nature for cultivation, but, in the last few years, new areas like, Lavender cultivation have been explored at a large scale both in the Kashmir valley in the areas around including Gulmarg as well as in the Jammu region in districts Doda and Reasi.

He said, that He said, a sustained awareness campaign needs to be launched among the youth and their parents to educate them that there are much more lucrative emoluments avail-

able through these self-livelihood and new Start-ups options and, therefore, they should not be led to waste their time and energy in protesting for government salaried jobs.

Reiterating that the farming of today is no longer the farming of yesterday, Singh said that the farmer today is actually an "agricultural technocrat" or an "agricultural Start-up" who has "the option of making handsome profits using the new technology and provisions introduced in the agricultural sector."

The Government of India through CSIR, he said, is providing all the relevant financial and technical support for new modes of cultivation, multiple integrated farming and also hybrid farming which have the capacity to double farmers' income by 2022.

Education Department To Go Door To Door To Enrol Students

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department has asked the teachers and Head of the Institutions (Hols) of Kashmir division to conduct the door to door campaigning to facilitate optimum fresh enrolment in government schools for session 2021-22.

The personal officer of Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a communiqué said that in order to facilitate optimum enrolment in government schools, all the Chief Education Officers (CEOs), Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) Heads of Educational Institutions are advised to conduct massive enrolment drives in their respective jurisdiction from November-10 to December-15.

According to local news agency, the department has said that the activity that needs to be followed during the campaign includes door to door campaigning that shall be conducted by HOLS and teachers.

Besides, the School Education Department has also said that the rallies by children shall be made, parent motivation camps shall also be held by involving School Management Committee (SMC), village Education Committees (VECs) and other community leaders.

DSEK in a communiqué has further urged to update the village education register for identification of Out of school Children, and Children with Special Needs.

Nearly Hundred Water Testing Labs Set Up Across J&K

SRINAGAR: To ensure quality water supply, Jal Shakti Department under the aegis of Jal Jeevan Mission has set up 97 water testing laboratories across J&K.

Jal Jeevan Mission not only ensures regular tap water supply but also stresses water quality. Water testing is important for monitoring the operation of water supply, verification of the safety of drinking water, investigation of disease outbreaks, validation process and preventive measures.

Water quality testing tools would be used for measuring the purity of drinking water: at the source; within a piped distribution system; or at the end of the supply. Drinking water quality monitoring and water quality surveillance are distinct yet closely related activities. The drinking water quality will be monitored by the supplier/ agency responsible for water quality where- as the surveillance of water quality at the grassroots will be the responsibility of the

GPs/ rural community.

Under JJM, upto 2% of total fund allocation is to be used on water quality monitoring & surveillance activities which primarily comprise water quality monitoring by the Department through laboratory testing and water quality surveillance by the community through testing local water sources using Field Test Kits (FTKs). All drinking water sources are to be tested once a year for chemical contamination and twice a year for bacteriological parameters.

To empower the local community on water quality surveillance in J&K, Jal Shakti Department has embarked on a mission to identify and train 5 persons, especially women in each village from the local community, viz. ASHA workers, health workers, VWSC/ Pani Samiti members, teachers, SHG members, etc., to conduct water quality tests using FTKs/ bacteriological vials at the village level, schools and Anganwadi centres.

According to a JJM Official, the laboratories at Sub-divisional/ block lab will test 100% water sources under its jurisdiction; once for chemical parameters and twice for bacteriological parameters (pre and post-monsoon) in a year, covering all sources of a block at least for 13 basic water quality parameters. The positively tested samples will be referred to the district laboratory immediately.

Similarly, he informed that district labs will test 250 water sources/ samples per month (i.e. 3,000 in a year as per the target of roster available on Department/ National Mission IMIS) covering all sources randomly spread geographically including the positively tested samples referred by the subdivision/ block laboratory/ mobile laboratory on at least for 13 basic water quality parameters. The district lab will also refer the positively tested samples to the State laboratory immediately, he said, "The other parameters may be tested as per local contamination at the district level."

T20 WORLD CUP

New Zealand Win Big Vs Namibia, On Course For Semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: Glenn Phillips and Jimmy Neesham's game changing partnership on a tricky surface helped New Zealand beat Namibia by 52 runs in a Super 12 game here on Friday and stay on course for a semifinal berth in the T20 World Cup.

Courtesy some late-hitting by Phillips (39 not out off 21 balls) and Neesham (35 not out off 23 balls), New Zealand posted 163 for four and then restricted the opposition to 111/7 to complete a convincing win.

Tim Southee (2/15), Trent Boult (2/20), Mitchell Santner (1/20), Ish Sodhi (1/22) and Jimmy Neesham (1/6) shared the wickets.

The win also meant that Kiwis jumped to the second spot in the standings and now have six points with a net run rate of +1.277.

They play Afghanistan on Sunday in what could be a virtual quarterfinal.

Earlier, Phillips and Neesham took the Namibian attack to the cleaners and propelled New



Zealand past 150 which looked unlikely at one stage.

New Zealand were struggling at 87/4, but brutal hitting by Phillips and Neesham ensured that the Kiwis were back in the game.

The duo added 76 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket in just 36 balls. Phillips hammered one four and three sixes, Neesham struck one boundary and two maximums.

Courtesy Phillips and Neesham, Kiwis amassed 53 runs in the last three overs.

Dwayne Bravo To Retire After T20 World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI: Star West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo says he will retire from international cricket after the ongoing T20 World Cup here as "time has come" to leave the stage after a career he can be proud of.

The 38-year-old Bravo came out of retirement in 2019 and has been a key member of the West Indies team defending its title in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

But the Caribbeans are out contention for a semifinal spot after losing to Sri Lanka—their third in the showpiece—in a Super 12 match on Thursday.

West Indies' inconsequential match against Australia here on Saturday will be Bravo's last international outing, bringing down the curtains on a career spanning more than 17 years.

"I think the time has come. I've had a very good career. To represent the West Indies for 18 years, had some ups and downs, but as I look back at it I'm very



grateful to represent the region and the Caribbean people for so long," said Bravo who has been an integral part of the four-time IPL champion Chennai Super Kings team.

"To win three ICC trophies, two with my captain (Daren Sammy) on the left here. One thing I am proud about is that the era of cricketers we had we were able to make a name for ourselves on the global stage and not only do that but have silverware to show for it."

Earlier in the year, during their home series against Pakistan, skipper Kieron Pollard had said that Bravo was playing his last T20I game on the Caribbean soil.

Ansu Fati Returns For Spain's Decisive World Cup Qualifiers

AGENCIES

MADRID: Spain coach Luis Enrique called up Barcelona teenager Ansu Fati on Friday for the national team's decisive World Cup qualifiers against Greece and Sweden.

With two matches remaining, Spain is in second place behind Sweden in their qualifying group. The group winners qualify for the next year's tournament in Qatar, while second-place

finishers face a playoff.

Spain plays Greece in Athens on Nov. 11 and then hosts Sweden in Seville on Nov. 14.

Sweden leads Group B with 15 points, followed by Spain with 13 and Greece with nine.

The 19-year-old Fati will join a squad that is largely untouched from the group that reached the semifinals of the European

Championship in July and the Nations League final last month.



ENGLAND CRICKET RACISM

ECB Bans Yorkshire From Hosting International Matches

‘Made to feel like an outsider for being a Muslim’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: The England Cricket Board has banned Yorkshire county from hosting international matches for failing to act on former player Azeem Rafiq's racial abuse charges, which were proved to be true in an independent inquiry, calling the club's approach "abhorrent".

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) took the decision a day after Yorkshire player Gary Ballance admitted using a racial slur against his teammate Rafiq.

"... YCCC are suspended from hosting international or major matches until it has clearly demonstrated that it can meet the standards expected of an international venue, ECB member and First Class County," the ECB said in a statement after its board meeting.

The club ground Headingley is due to host the third Test against New Zealand in June next year, as well as an ODI against South Africa and the potential for knockout fixtures in the Hundred, as the host venue of Northern Superchargers. They were also scheduled to host an Ashes Test in 2023. All these games are now in jeopardy.

"It is clear to the Board that YCCC's handling of the issues raised by Azeem Rafiq is wholly unacceptable and is causing serious damage to the reputation of the game. The ECB find this matter ab-



The ECB also banned Ballance from England selection for an indefinite period. Ballance has accepted his guilt of being responsible for some of the offensive and derogatory terms that Rafiq revealed he was subjected during his time playing for the county in northern England.

"Before any regulatory investigation is complete, the Board wishes to take immediate action in relation to Gary Ballance. While Mr Ballance has not been selected to play for England since 2017, he will be suspended indefinitely from selection. This position will be reviewed following the ECB regulatory investigation into his conduct."

The ECB Board asked the ECB Executive to commission a review of Yorkshire CCC's governance to consider whether the existing arrangements are fit for purpose.

The cricket club recently concluded that no employees would face any action over Rafiq's claims of institutional racism, leading to major sponsors this week abandoning deals over the handling of the case.

"The ECB will therefore hold YCCC to account in relation to their handling of the matter. Sanctions including, but not limited to, financial and future major match allocations may be considered at the conclusion of our investigations."

"Given recent events, it is clear there are serious questions regarding the governance and management of YCCC. The club's failure in relation to actions and responses to their own report represent a significant breach of its obligations to the game," the cricket body said.

Azeem Rafiq, a former England under-19 captain, said in interviews last year that as a Muslim he was made to feel like an "outsider" during his time at Yorkshire from 2008-18 and that he was close to taking his own life.

Rafiq made 43 allegations relating to his time at Yorkshire, of which seven were upheld by an independent panel, which added there was "no question" he was subjected to racial harassment and bullying.

Ballance's name was redacted in a summary of the independent report into Rafiq's wide-ranging claims of institutional racism.

Yorkshire chairman Roger Hutton has been called to appear before the select committee of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to give evidence on the matter, with Rafiq also invited to the session, which is set to be held on November 16.

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI T20

J&K Lose To Rajasthan, Suffer 2nd Straight Defeat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

VADODARA: Jammu & Kashmir senior cricket team were handed a second successive loss in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament. The five wicket-defeat to Rajasthan on Friday followed an earlier mauling by Andhra Pradesh, that saw Andhra score 198/1 and J&K managing 162/8.

Deepak Hooda's stroke-filled half-century along with impressive show by leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi became the cornerstone of Rajasthan's five-wicket win over Jammu and Kashmir in their Elite Group C league game.

Rajasthan had started their campaign on a winning note, defeating Jharkhand by six wickets on Thursday.

Rajasthan first restricted the opposition to paltry 144/4 after putting them into bat, with Bishnoi (2/25), Tanveer Ul Haq (1/16), Kamlesh Nagarkoti (1/28) among wickets. Then Hooda anchored the chase with



his 28-ball 50 comprising four boundaries and three sixes.

J&K lost openers Qamran Iqbal (20) and Vivrant Sharma (15) early and were in spot of bother at 47/2, but Ian Dev Singh rallied the innings with his 33-ball 45, hitting five boundaries and a six.

Skipper Shubham Pundir (16) also could not convert his start and became Bishnoi's second victim.

Ian then found an able partner in hard-hitting batter Abdul Samad (40 not out, 3x4, 2x6) as the two added 46 runs for fourth wicket to take the

side beyond the 135-run mark.

Chasing 145, Rajasthan lost the top three batters openers Arjit Gupta (11), Abhimanyu Lamba (1) and Menaria (16) and were teetering at 3/39.

Hooda again rose to the occasion and tore apart the JK attack, as he blazed his way to 50. Hooda along with Mahipal Lomror (41 not out) conjured an 88-run stand for the fourth wicket.

They eventually took the game away from JK. Once Hooda fell, Lomror took the side home, with seven balls to spare, as they added another four points.

India Rout Scotland By 8 Wickets To Stay In Semis Race



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: India pulverised minnows Scotland by eight wickets in a Super 12 Group 2 match of the T20 World Cup to keep their semifinal hopes alive, here on Friday.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja and pacer Mohammed Shami took three wickets apiece as India bundled out their opposition for just 85 in 17.4 overs.

Opener George Munsey top-scored for Scotland with his 24-

run knock.

KL Rahul (50), and Rohit Sharma (30) and treated Scotland with utter disdain to add 70 runs in five overs.

India knocked off the target in just 6.3 overs.

Brief Scores:

Scotland: 85 all out in 17.4 overs. (George Munsey 24, Chris Greaves 21; R Jadeja 3/15, M Shami 3/15).

India: 89 for two in 6.3 overs. (KL Rahul 50, R Sharma 30; B Wheel 1/32).

TV Anchor Niaz Apologises To Shoaib Akhtar For On-Air Spat



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KARACHI: TV anchor Nauman Niaz has offered an "unconditional" apology to former cricketer Shoaib Akhtar for the on-air spat between them but also said that PTV was being "taken for granted" by the former Pakistan pacer and that also contributed in the ugly episode.

Akhtar was told to leave the set by Niaz and former Pakistan cricketer immediately announced that he is resigning as PTV's cricket analyst.

The manner in which Niaz treated Akhtar had caused a storm on social media with many demanding the termination of the TV host.

The incident took place during a World Cup show in which stalwarts like Sir Viv Richards, David Gower, Rashid Latif, Aaqib Javed, Azhar Mahmood, Umar Gul and Sana Mir were also present.

Akhtar had refused to appear before an inquiry committee formed by the PTV management until Niaz was sacked for his behaviour. The committee immediately took both off the air. Niaz, on Thursday night, said in an interview on a Youtube channel that he had made a grave mistake and his behaviour was unwarranted, inexcusable and appalling.

"I apologise and I will apologise a million times for my behaviour which should not have happened because Shoaib Akhtar is a star," Niaz said.

Niaz also said that the reaction to his outburst was justified, adding "I had no right. To err is human and for that, I apologise. Not only once, but a million times. Shoaib has been a rock star.

Whatever happened on camera was unbecoming."

The well-known host also confessed that his father a retired General had told him to take responsibility because of the "mistake you have done". But at the same time Niaz spilled some beans on what were the circumstances that led to the spat.

"Shoaib was contracted with us on a yearly basis and we pay him a very handsome salary on the basis of exclusivity. Before the World Cup Shoaib came to me and had sought a pay raise which was eventually settled in a meeting with the channel's managing director.

"Later on October 17, Shoaib was supposed to take part in the transmission, but he left for Dubai and participated in a show there with Harbhajan Singh. He then committed to come back for the PTV transmission a couple of days later but didn't turn up." Admitting that Akhtar is a "saleable brand" on screen, he clarified that Clause 5 of the former bowler's contract outright barred him from taking part in any other talk show.

"However, he participated in other shows during this period". Niaz also said that all this also contributed to the incident as deep down he resented Akhtar's behaviour who had not taken into consideration the channel's reputation.

"PTV was being taken for granted, which was bad," he added.

"These things were building up in my mind. Let me honestly say that a minor abrasion erupted in my cognitive mind that led to the incident which we all saw and it should not have happened." He insisted he was offering an unconditional apology for the episode.

Manchester Derby The Marquee Match Up In Premier League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MANCHESTER: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer likened Cristiano Ronaldo to Michael Jordan after the Portugal star sailed out Manchester United yet again this week in the Champions League.

The United manager could use a bit of Phil Jackson — the "Zen master" — former coach of the Chicago Bulls — when they host Manchester City on Saturday in the marquee matchup of weekend games in the English Premier League.

It's been more chaotic than calm lately for Solskjaer, whose leadership of England's biggest team was called into question after a crushing 5-0 loss to Liverpool on Oct. 24. United responded with a 3-0 victory over Tottenham before Ronaldo's two goals — including a stoppage-time effort — salvaged a 2-2 draw at Atlanta in the Champions League on Tuesday.

City visits Old Trafford

coming off a 4-1 win over Club Brugge in the Champions League on Wednesday. Post-match, manager Pep Guardiola was already looking ahead to the derby — and Ronaldo.

"They have one of the best players in all history, a guy who is able for himself to do unique things — a scoring machine — we know it," Guardiola said. "Of course we will have a plan we are going to impose to try to do our game, that's for sure."

Raheem Sterling ended his scoring drought — netting his first City goal since August in the midweek game in a potential boost for a team that lacks a striker.

The news was worse for United, which lost center-back Raphael Varane, who left Tuesday's game in the first half. The club confirmed Wednesday that Varane had a hamstring injury that "is expected to keep him out of action for around a month."



Solskjaer was questioned post-match about finding more minutes for England winger Jadon Sancho, for whom United paid \$100 million in the offseason.

"I commit a crime every time I pick a team because there's always players that get left out," Solskjaer said. "Jadon will come good.

Jadon has got a great work rate and attitude. He'll have many, many years as a good player here."

United is in fifth place, eight points back of league leader Chelsea and three behind third-place City.

CONTE'S RETURN

Tottenham visits Ever-

ton on Sunday in what will mark the return of manager Antonio Conte to the Premier League. He was hired Tuesday. First though, Spurs were hosting Vitesse on Thursday in the third-tier Europa Conference League.

Conte is Tottenham's third manager in seven months. He was hired a day after the firing of Nuno Espirito Santo, who was dismissed for losing half of his 10 Premier League matches in charge.

Conte, who had been out of work since leaving Inter Milan after winning Serie A in May, won the Premier League title and the FA Cup in his two seasons at Chelsea before leaving in 2018.

"Now it's a new era, a new chapter, it's a massive opportunity for us," goalkeeper Hugo Lloris said of Conte's hiring.

Chelsea, three points ahead of second-place Liverpool, hosts Burnley on Saturday. Liverpool visits fourth-place West Ham a day later.



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